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ABSTRACT

This booklet provides suggested activities that can be used to enrich the observance of Missouri Day, a day commemorative of Missouri history. The document includes a chart specifying the date of Missouri day from 1990 through 1995, always the third Wednesday of October. Activities are recommended for primary, elementary, middle, and secondary school levels. These include making large three dimensional paper figures of famous Missourians, public address announcements, map activities, photograph displays, pen pal programs, environmental projects, and state park field trips. A list of 15 interesting facts about Missouri is included. Fifteen famous people from Missouri are listed and briefly identified. These are Thomas Hart Benton, George Caleb Bingham, Daniel Boone, Omar N. Bradley, George Washington Carver, Samuel Clemens, Walt Disney, Eugene Field, Edwin Hubbell, Jesse James, Scott Joplin, John J. Pershing, Joseph Smith, Harry S Truman, and Laura Ingalls Wilder, all of whom were from Missouri, or lived there at some point in their lives. A list of resources includes 16 books, 7 organizations that have books and materials, or provide programs for students, and 4 state agencies that offer a variety of materials and information. (DK)

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CELEBRATE MISSOURI DAY

IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Resources and activities
compiled for
Missouri teachers by the
Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

SO 023 491

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

The third Wednesday of October of each year is known and designated as "Missouri Day" and is set apart as a day commemorative of Missouri history to be observed by the teachers and pupils of schools with the appropriate exercises. The people of the state of Missouri, and the educational, commercial, political, civic, religious and fraternal organizations of the state of Missouri are requested to devote some part of the day to the methodical consideration of the products of the mines, fields, and forests of the state and to the consideration of the achievements of the sons and daughters of Missouri in commerce, literature, statesmanship, science and art, and in other departments of activity in which the state has rendered service to mankind.

—Section 9.040, RSMo.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Here are some suggested activities that you can use to enrich the observance of Missouri Day in your classroom or school. The activities may take more than one day, so plan to begin or end on Missouri Day (see box for dates).

1. Famous Missourians in 3-D (primary grades)

Draw outlines of children lying on large sheets of butcher paper, and cut out two life-size pieces (one for the front, one for the back) for each student's figure. Have students "dress" their figures as famous Missourians, using paints or markers. Staple the fronts and backs together, but leave the tops open. Stuff each figure with newspaper until it looks full, and staple closed. Attach the figures to a bulletin board or hang them from a line for display. Discuss how the state, nation and world are better places thanks to the contributions of the famous Missourians studied.

For information about notable Missourians, see page 6 of this brochure or contact your school or community library.

MISSOURI DAYs

1990
October 17

1991
October 16

1992
October 21

1993
October 20

1994
October 19

1995
October 18

2. Public Address Announcements (elementary & secondary)

During the week of Missouri Day, have students make announcements about Missouri in class or over the public address system. The brief reports, based on students' research, could answer the basic questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? So what?

3. Find the Place—A Map Activity (elementary & junior high/middle school)

Get Missouri road maps, one for every four students, and show students how to use the key to locate cities. Divide the class into teams of four and have the teams compete in a "Find the Place" game.

Follow these instructions: Hold up a large card with the name of a landmark, such as the Gateway Arch, Royals Stadium, or Harry Truman's home. Then have the teams try to locate the landmark on their maps. The first team to find the place receives two points. If students must be told the name of the city where the landmark is located, award the first team to find the city one point.

Members of the team with the most points could be given Missouri-related prizes like Missouri coloring books, maps or paper flags, which are available from the Secretary of State's office (see "Resources").

4. Photographs (elementary & secondary)

As a class or school, students could organize a display of photographs around the theme "Then and Now." Photo subjects could include Missouri cities, rural Missouri, Missouri families, Missouri agriculture, Missouri sports, Missouri schools, and so on.

5. Missouri Pen Pals (elementary & secondary)

Help students locate pen pals in other parts of the state, nation or world, and have them write each other, explaining—with supporting photographs or drawings—what their lives are like. The quality of the letters could be enhanced by helping students understand the settings of the people to whom they are writing and explain what their part of Missouri is like in ways the readers will readily understand.

A variation of this activity is to print the names of different Missouri communities on cards; then have students draw the cards and investigate what the communities on their cards are like. Students could then write letters to each other about the communities they have studied, giving special emphasis to where the community is located and how people have helped shape it.

6. The Missouri Environment (elementary & secondary)

Collect photographs, maps and charts of Missouri and have students study them to answer these questions: What is the land of Missouri like in the places pictured? How has the land influenced people's lives? How have people changed the land? What are some places in the world that are very different from Missouri? How are they different?

7. Exploring Your Own Backyard (elementary & secondary)

Missouri's 74 state parks and historic sites offer excellent opportunities for students to learn about Missouri's cultural and natural history. The Department of Natural Resources (see "Resources") can help you locate the facility closest to your school. Plan a field trip to the site or invite a park naturalist or historic site administrator to make a presentation for your students.

8. Maps Tell the Missouri Story (elementary & secondary)

Show students a variety of maps, each of which presents special information about the world or some part of the world. The information may be about weather, climate, topography, vegetation, soils, population densities, dominant economies, historical events, and so on. In small groups or as a class, have students discuss what they can learn from the maps.

Then, pass out black outline maps of Missouri to teams of two or three students. Direct each team to think of some aspect of Missouri to communicate on its map. Allowing time for guided research in the library, have the teams construct their maps. Conclude the activity with a special display for the entire school and community; group the maps under the heading "Maps Tell the Missouri Story."

FACTS ABOUT MISSOURI

- Missouri has more caves, more free-flowing streams, more springs and more types of wildflowers than any other state.
- Missouri and Tennessee are the only two states in the nation bordered by eight other states. Missouri's neighbors are Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee.
- Missouri is the 15th most populous state in the nation with 5,141,000 (1988 estimate) residents.
- America's first public kindergarten was started in 1873, when the St. Louis Board of Education voted to make the program a permanent part of the school system.
- The most violent earthquake ever recorded in North America occurred in 1811 in Missouri's Bootheel area near the town of New Madrid.
- Ste. Genevieve, founded in 1735, is the state's oldest settlement and the first permanent white settlement on the west bank of the Mississippi River.
- The Ozark National Scenic Riverways in south central Missouri was the nation's first designated "scenic riverway," preserving sections of the Current and Jacks Fork rivers in their natural state.
- Ice cream cones and hot dogs were manufactured and sold for the first time at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.
- Missouri University, founded in 1839, was the first state university west of the Mississippi. The university celebrated its sesquicentennial in 1989.
- Kansas City, Missouri, has more fountains than any other city in the world except Rome, Italy.
- Missouri is a leading producer of cattle and soybeans, ranking second in the nation in the number of beef cattle operations and sixth in soybean production.
- The 630-foot Gateway Arch in St. Louis is America's tallest manmade national monument.
- The highest point in Missouri is Taum Sauk Mountain (1,772 ft.) in Iron County.
- Braille, now the universal method of reading and writing for the blind, was first introduced in the Western Hemisphere at the Missouri School for the Blind in St. Louis in 1859.
- St. Joseph was the eastern starting point for the Pony Express, the pony-powered postal service that operated between Missouri and California in 1860-61.

Compiled by the Missouri Division of Tourism and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (September 1990)

FAMOUS MISSOURIANS

Thomas Hart Benton, renowned artist, was born in Neosho in 1889. Two of Benton's best works are murals in the State Capitol in Jefferson City and in the Harry S Truman Library in Independence.

George Caleb Bingham, considered by many to be the greatest American-born artist, lived most of his life in Missouri. The home in Arrow Rock where he lived (1837-45) has been restored as part of a state historic site.

Daniel Boone was a pioneer, scout and Indian fighter. He came to Missouri in 1799 as governor of the Spanish-ruled Missouri territory. Boone died in 1820 at the stone home he built near Defiance.

Omar N. Bradley, born near Moberly in 1893, commanded the Twelfth Army Group in World War II and later served as the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

George Washington Carver, born a slave near Diamond in Newton County, became one of America's greatest scientists. His practical research has helped farmers make a better living from marginal soil.

Samuel Clemens, better known as "Mark Twain," is one of America's greatest writers. His love for the Mississippi River and his boyhood home in Hannibal is reflected in his stories about Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn.

Walt Disney, animator and movie producer, grew up in Marceline.

Eugene Field, author, newspaper reporter and columnist, was born in St. Louis in 1850. He wrote some of the world's best-loved children's poetry.

Edwin Hubbell, an astronomer who made outstanding contributions in cosmology (the study of the universe), was born in 1889 in Marshfield.

Jesse James, notorious outlaw, was born in Missouri in 1847. He and his brother, Frank, grew up on a farm near Kearney.

Scott Joplin, musical innovator and the "father of ragtime," was born in Texas but spent most of his life living and working in Sedalia and St. Louis.

John J. Pershing, whose distinguished military career included commanding the American Expeditionary Force in Europe during World War I, was born in 1860 near Laclede.

Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (also known as the Mormon Church), settled with his followers in Independence in 1831.

Harry S Truman, 33rd president of the United States, was born at Lamar in 1884. Truman's boyhood homes, summer White House and the Truman Library and Museum are all located in the Independence area.

Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of *Little House on the Prairie* and seven other *Little House* books for children, wrote all of her books at Rocky Ridge Farm in Mansfield.

RESOURCES

- Fitzgerald, A. Irene. *Missouri's Literary Heritage for Children and Youth.* Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1981.
- Greene, Lorenzo J., Gary Kremer and Anthony F. Holland. *Missouri's Black Heritage.* Arlington Heights, Ill.: Forum Press, 1980.
- *Historic Missouri: A Pictorial Narrative.* Columbia: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1988.
- *Key to Missouri Authors.* Columbia: Missouri Library Association, Children's Services Round Table, 1987.
- McCandless, Perry and William Foley. *Missouri Then and Now.* Austin, Texas: Steck-Vaughn, 1976. (Reprinted by the University of Missouri Press, 1990.)
- Meyer, Duane. *The Heritage of Missouri, A History.* St. Louis: River City Publishers, 1982.
- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, *Missouri in the World, a Resource Guide for Social Studies.* Columbia: Center for Educational Assessment, 1987.
- *Missouriana: A Resource Guide.* Jefferson City: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Missouri State Library, 1982.
- *The Missouri Legislature: The People, the Process, the Power.* (Look in your school's videotape library for this videotape and text explanation of the General Assembly and state legislative process.)
- *Official Manual of the State of Missouri.* Jefferson City: Office of the Secretary of State. (Look in your school library for the current edition.)
- Parrish, William E., Charles T. Jones Jr. and Lawrence O. Christensen. *Missouri, the Heart of the Nation.* Arlington Heights, Ill.: Forum Press, 1980.
- *Pause in Missouri.* Columbia: Missouri State Division, American Association of University Women, 1979.
- Phillips, Charles. *Missouri—Mother of the American West.* Northridge, Calif.: Windsor Publications. 1988.
- Priddy, Bob. *Across Our Wide Missouri, Vols. I and II.* Independence: Independence Press. 1982 and 1984.
- *Six Elected Officials* (This videotape about the executive branch of Missouri government may be purchased for $8.60 from the Division of Instruction, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102.)
- *They Stand for Us: Missouri Symbols.* (Look for this videotape, produced by the Secretary of State's office in 1989, in elementary school libraries.)

ORGANIZATIONS

- The State Historical Society of Missouri (1020 Lowry St., Columbia, MO 65201) has an extensive collection of books and other materials on Missouri history. It publishes *The Missouri Historical Review.*

- Missouri Historical Society (Jefferson Memorial Building, Forest Park, St. Louis, MO 63112) provides programs for schools. Write for a brochure about society services.

- University of Missouri Cultural Heritage Center (602 Sanford, Columbia, MO 65211). Write for a brochure about center programs.

- Missouri Geographic Alliance (6 Stewart Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211) offers information on teaching the geography of Missouri.

- League of Women Voters of Missouri (6665 Delmar, Rm. 304, St. Louis, MO 63130) publishes information about Missouri government and issues facing the state.

- The Missouri Bar (Box 119, Jefferson City, MO 65102) can provide guest speakers on Missouri's legal system.

- The Missouri Council on Economic Education (University of Missouri-Columbia, 228 Professional Bldg., Columbia, MO 65211) and its centers in St. Louis, Kansas City, Columbia, Cape Girardeau, Springfield, Maryville, Rolla and St. Joseph can arrange for speakers on Missouri's economy.

STATE AGENCIES

Missouri state government can provide a variety of materials and information. You'll find a complete list of state agencies in the *Official Manual of the State of Missouri.* Here are some departments you might want to contact:

- Office of the Secretary of State (P.O. Box 778, Jefferson City, MO 65102) offers a student packet.

- Missouri Division of Tourism (P.O. Box 1055, Jefferson City, MO 65102) offers the publication *Missouri—Facts & Figures* in limited quantities.

- Missouri Department of Conservation (P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102) offers information about Missouri's fish, wildlife and forests.

- Missouri Department of Natural Resources (P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102) offers information about topics such as environmental protection, energy conservation, geology and Missouri's state parks and historic sites.

Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102
Robert E. Bartman, Commissioner of Education
September 1990